A P

WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

No 5

10D

THE SHIP THAT RAN AWAY

GET IN ON THE BOOM-WAGON OF SUCCESS! BUY THE

NEW STYLE

PICTURE STORY PAPER FOR

YOUNG MEN

IT'S GOT EVERYTHING—

It's TOP SPOT

JUST LOOK AT WHAT IT OFFERS :—

★ **CRIME AND DETECTION**
Hard-hitting picture stories of Scotland Yard's endless fight against the ruthless underworld.

★ **WESTERN**
Stirring pictorial adventures of the Old West come to vivid life from the pens of such famous authors as Norman Fox and Ernest Haycox.

★ **HUMOUR**
Cartoon strips and stories specially written to touch on all tastes in humour.

★ **WARRIORS WITH WINGS**
Out of the true annals of war in the air, come splendid sagas of brave men and their selfless heroism.

★ **SHORT STORIES IN PICTURES**
To make you laugh or sit tense with suspense—or to grip your heart.

★ **MOTOR RACING**
Triumphs and tragedies of speed, graphically recounted by one of England's leading motoring experts—Laurence Cade.

★ **MUSIC**
Brilliantly written articles on Traditional and Modern Jazz by Britain's top authority—Rex Harris.

★ **STRANGE BUT TRUE**
Follow in the footsteps of Fate as fascinating and mysterious dramas of real life are told to you in pictures.

SPORT! **ENTERTAINMENT!** **ADVENTURE!**

ACTION! **THRILLS!** **LAUGHTER!**

THOUSANDS ARE BUYING IT, SO WHY DON'T YOU ?
IT'S ON SALE EVERY THURSDAY—IT'S NEW—IT'S GOT THE LOT !

It's TOP SPOT

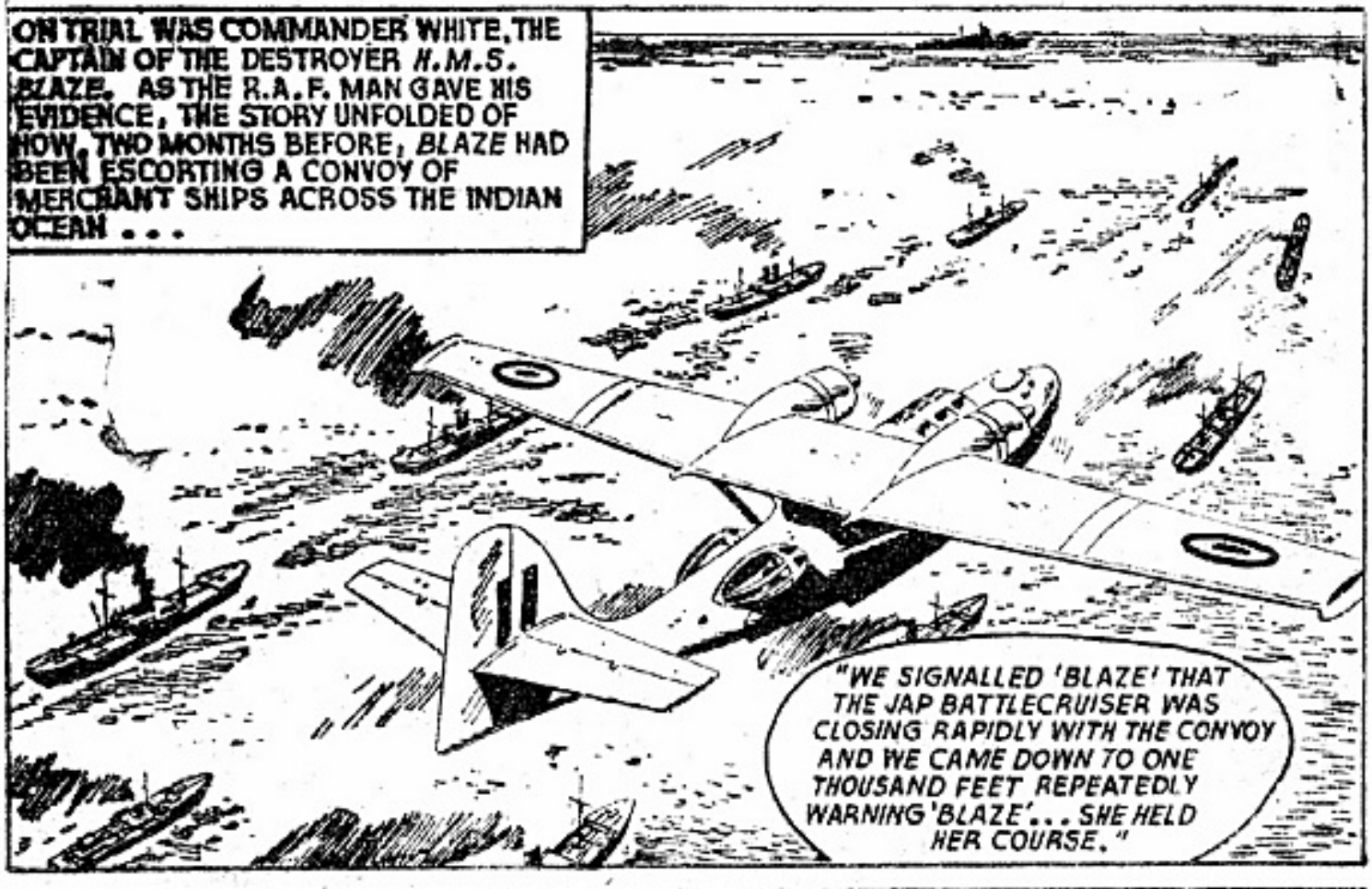
Order it now—and EVERY THURSDAY

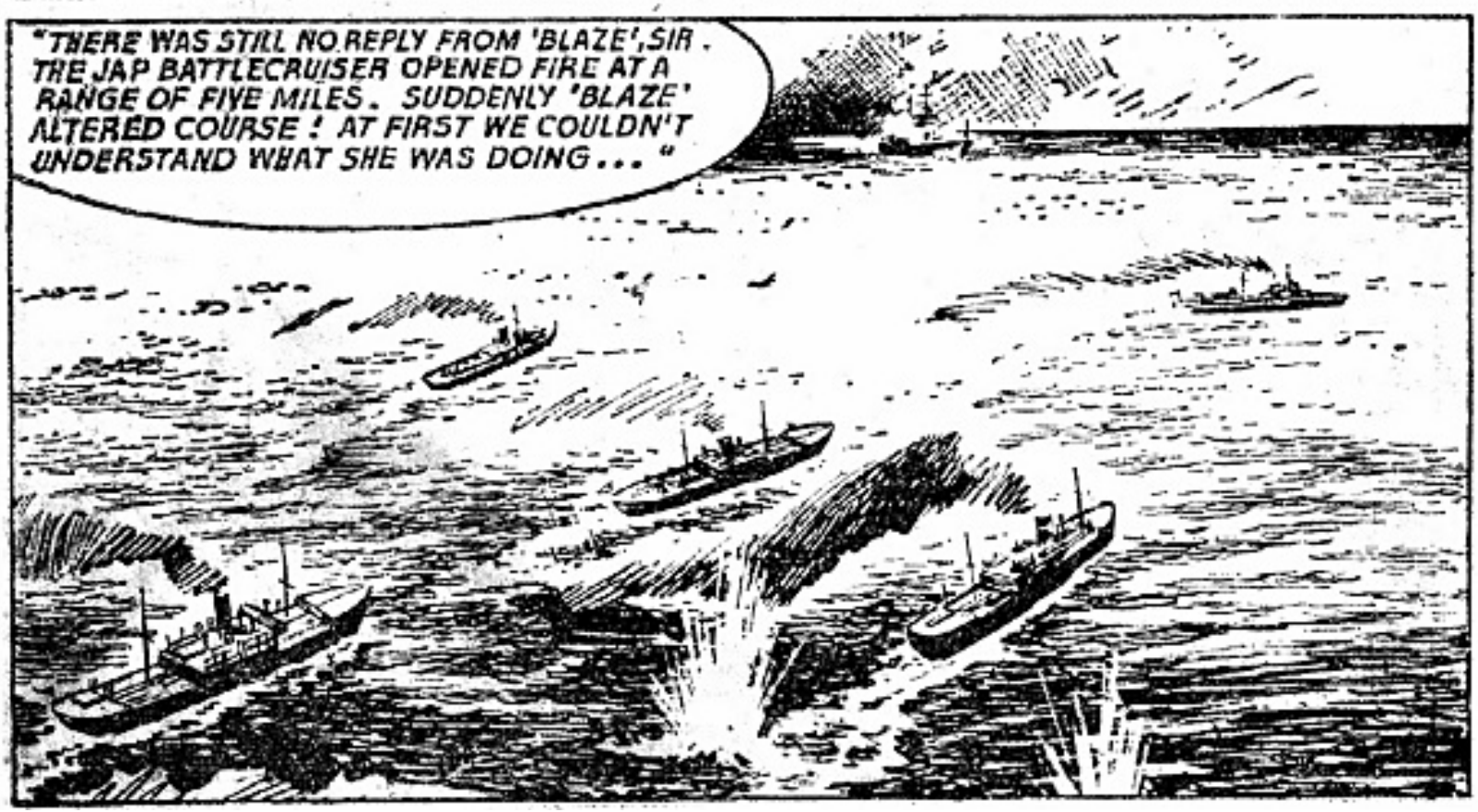
4½d.

THE SHIP THAT RAN AWAY

© The Amalgamated Press, Ltd., 1958

Chapter 1. THE SHAME OF H.M.S. BLAZE





THE QUIET VOICE WAS COLD NOW WITH BITTERNESS ...
"THEN WE REALISED... THE CONVOY HAD SCATTERED, ONE SHIP WAS ALREADY ON FIRE AND SINKING, THE MINESWEEPER 'TERRIER' WAS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE BATTLECRUISER WITH ALL HER GUNS FIRING... AND 'BLAZE' WAS RUNNING AWAY, SIR!"
BEHIND THE DESTROYER, THE CONVOY IT HAD BEEN HER DUTY TO PROTECT WAS DESTROYED. H.M.S. BLAZE HAD ESCAPED TO SAFETY... AND TO SHAME!
R-7
"WE FLEW OVER 'BLAZE'. THERE WERE MEN LOOKING BACK AT THE CONVOY AS IT BURNED AND SANK BEHIND THEM... AT THE 'TERRIER' AS SHE WENT DOWN WITH HER GUNS FIRING. 'BLAZE' WAS SAFE, BUT WE... WE WANTED TO TEAR THAT WHITE ENSIGN OFF HER, SIR..."

THE R.A.F OFFICER WALKED BACK TO HIS SEAT IN A HEAVY SILENCE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT LOOKED GRIMLY DOWN AT THE BOWED HEAD OF THE CAPTAIN OF *H.M.S. BLAZE*.

TENSELY, THE COURT AWAITED THE VERDICT...IT WAS NOT ONLY A MAN WHO WAS ON TRIAL, BUT A SHIP !

THE ADMIRAL KNEW HE WAS ADDRESSING A SICK MAN. BUT THIS COULD NOT AFFECT HIS DECISION.

AS THE DISHONOURED NAVAL OFFICER STUMBLED OUT BETWEEN ARMED RATINGS, THE COURTROOM BUZZED WITH TALK. ONLY ONE GROUP OF MEN WERE SILENT. THEY WERE SOME OF THE CREW OF *H.M.S. BLAZE*...

MAKE NO MISTAKE, LADS. IT'S THE *BLAZE* AND ALL OF US WHO SERVE ON HER WHO ARE GUILTY!

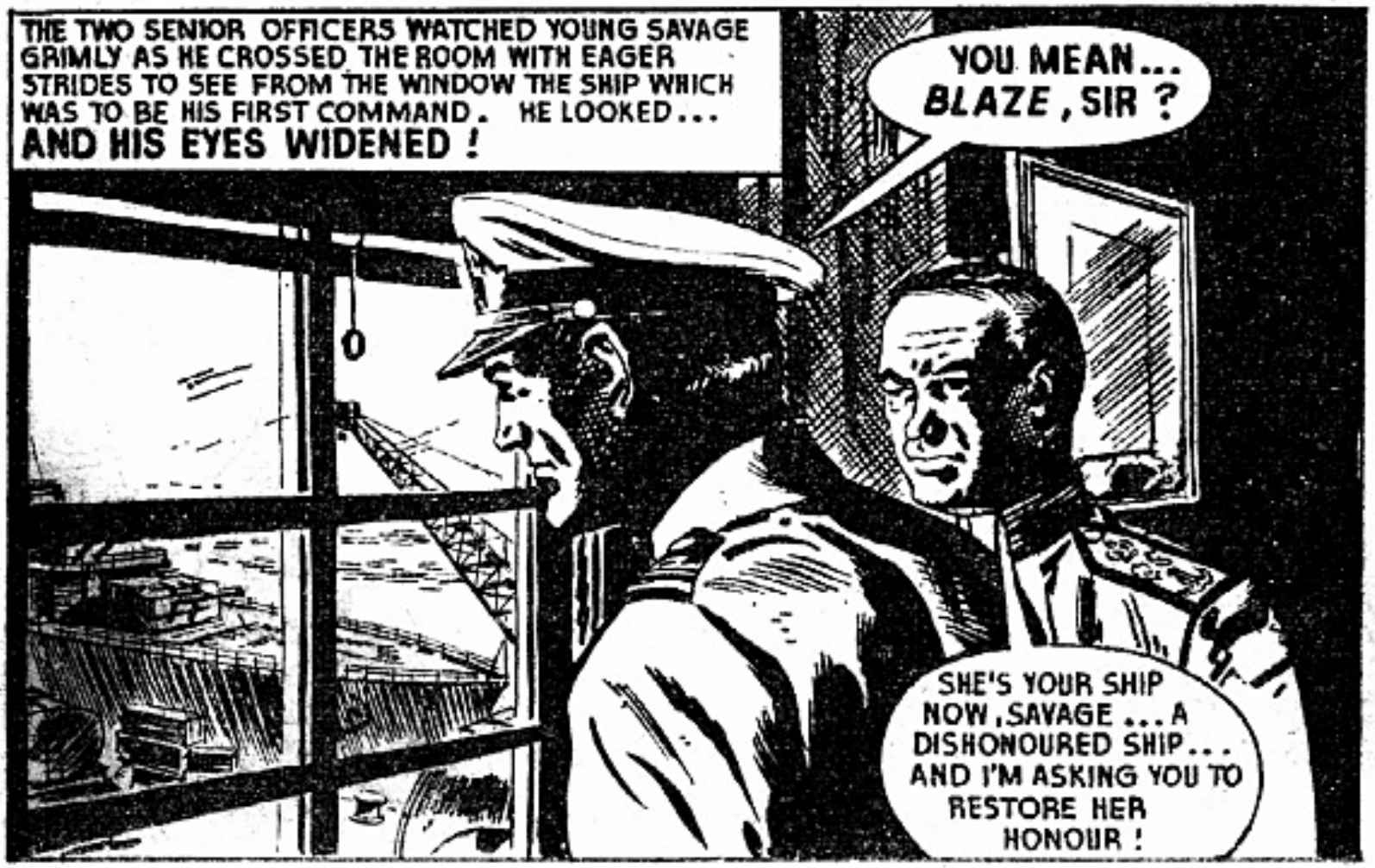
BUT *H.M.S. BLAZE* WAS STILL AFLOAT. SHE HAD A CREW. WHAT SHE NEEDED NOW WAS A NEW CAPTAIN... AND LATER, TWO SENIOR OFFICERS WERE DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM IN AN OFFICE OVERLOOKING THE NAVAL DEPOT AT TRINCOMALEE...

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY FINDING THE RIGHT SKIPPER FOR *BLAZE*, HUGH. HER CREW'S COMPLETELY DEMORALISED!

I KNOW IT. BUT I THINK I'VE GOT THE MAN TO TAKE HER ON!

THEN THE DOOR OPENED . . . .
LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER MICHAEL SAVAGE, SIR. YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ?
AH YES, SAVAGE. COME IN AND SIT DOWN. I'VE GOT A SHIP FOR YOU !

A YOUNG LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER, DARTMOUTH-TRAINED, MICHAEL SAVAGE HAD BEEN WAITING WITH FIERCE EAGERNESS FOR THE CHANCE TO COMMAND HIS OWN SHIP. NOW THAT CHANCE HAD COME . . .
YOU MEAN I'M TO HAVE MY FIRST COMMAND, SIR ?
YES, SAVAGE. SHE'S A GOOD SHIP, TOO . . . THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE TO PROVE THAT. COME OVER HERE AND LOOK AT HER !


THE TWO SENIOR OFFICERS WATCHED YOUNG SAVAGE GRIMLY AS HE CROSSED THE ROOM WITH EAGER STRIDES TO SEE FROM THE WINDOW THE SHIP WHICH WAS TO BE HIS FIRST COMMAND. HE LOOKED . . .
AND HIS EYES WIDENED !
YOU MEAN . . . BLAZE, SIR ?
SHE'S YOUR SHIP NOW, SAVAGE . . . A DISHONOURED SHIP . . . AND I'M ASKING YOU TO RESTORE HER HONOUR !

FOR A MOMENT, MICHAEL SAVAGE FELT A GREAT BITTERNESS. THIS WAS HIS FIRST COMMAND...THIS SHIP WHICH HAD DISHONOURED THE FLAG SHE FLEW! THEN HE SALUTED, HIS MOUTH SET IN A STUBBORN LINE. AND A SHORT WHILE LATER, HE STRODE ACROSS THE QUAY TO TAKE OVER HIS SHIP . . .
GOOD LUCK, MISTER SAVAGE !

MIKE SAVAGE'S THOUGHTS WERE GRIM AND DETERMINED. H.M.S. BLAZE WAS HIS SHIP NOW! NO ONE WAS GOING TO SNEER AT HER IF HE COULD HELP IT !
WELCOME ABOARD BLAZE, SIR !
THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT !

THE OFFICERS OF THE DESTROYER HAD ALREADY GATHERED IN THE WARDROOM. THEY WATCHED WITH PESSIMISTIC CURIOSITY AS THEIR NEW CAPTAIN CAME IN . . .

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, SIR... THE NAVIGATOR, LIEUTENANT KEVIN... THE ENGINEER, LIEUTENANT McKENZIE... SUB-LIEUTENANT A'COURT, TORPEDO OFFICER... AND MIDSHIPMAN THOMPSON. MY NAME'S PADDICK, SIR!

AS HE INSPECTED THE SHIP, MIKE FOUND THERE WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF GLOOM ABOARD *BLAZE*. HE KNEW THAT IT WOULD BE NO EASY TASK TO PUT A NEW PRIDE IN THEIR SHIP INTO THESE DEMORALISED MEN . . .

I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU, SIR, THAT THE SHIP'S AN UNHAPPY ONE!

I CAN SEE IT IS, MISTER PADDICK. WELL, WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THAT... COME ASHORE WITH ME TONIGHT AND WE'LL TALK THINGS OVER!

WHEN HE WENT ASHORE WITH LIEUTENANT PADDICK, MIKE WAS STILL WONDERING HOW HE SHOULD SET ABOUT THE TASK.
LOOK, BOYS ... THOSE YELLOW RATS FROM *BLAZE* ARE ASHORE!
I HEARD THEY'RE GOING TO RE-NAME IT THE *TURNTAIL*!

THE ANSWER TO MIKE'S PROBLEM CAME TO HIM IN AN ODD WAY AS THE TWO OFFICERS HALTED, WATCHING . . .
YOU LOT KEEP YOUR MOUTHS SHUT! *BLAZE* IS AS GOOD AS ANY OTHER SHIP!
LIKE TO PROVE IT, CHUM?

THE BIG SEAMAN'S COMPANIONS VANISHED BUT ALONE HE FOUGHT THE MEN WHO HAD SCOFFED AT HIM AND HIS SHIP ... AND MIKE SAVAGE WATCHED HELPLESSLY . . .

I WANT TO SEE THAT RATING IN THE MORNING, MISTER PADDICK. WHO IS HE?

IT'S LEADING-SEAMAN MAITLAND...THE MEN CALL HIM 'RHINO'. HE'S A HOT-HEAD, I'M AFRAID, SIR!

NEXT MORNING, BRUISED AND BATTERED, BUT HOLDING HIS HEAD HIGH, THE BURLY 'RHINO' MAITLAND APPEARED BEFORE LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER SAVAGE AT DEFAULTERS ...

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FOOLISH TO TAKE ON SIX MEN SINGLE-HANDED, MAITLAND?

IT MAY BE FOOLISH, SIR. BUT IT'S BETTER THAN RUNNING AWAY!

RHINO HAD EXPECTED TO LOSE HIS LEADING SEAMAN'S HOOK, BUT WHEN HE LOOKED INTO THE KEEN GREY EYES OF HIS COMMANDING OFFICER, HE SAW THERE A RESPECT WHICH BROUGHT A GRIN TO HIS FACE.

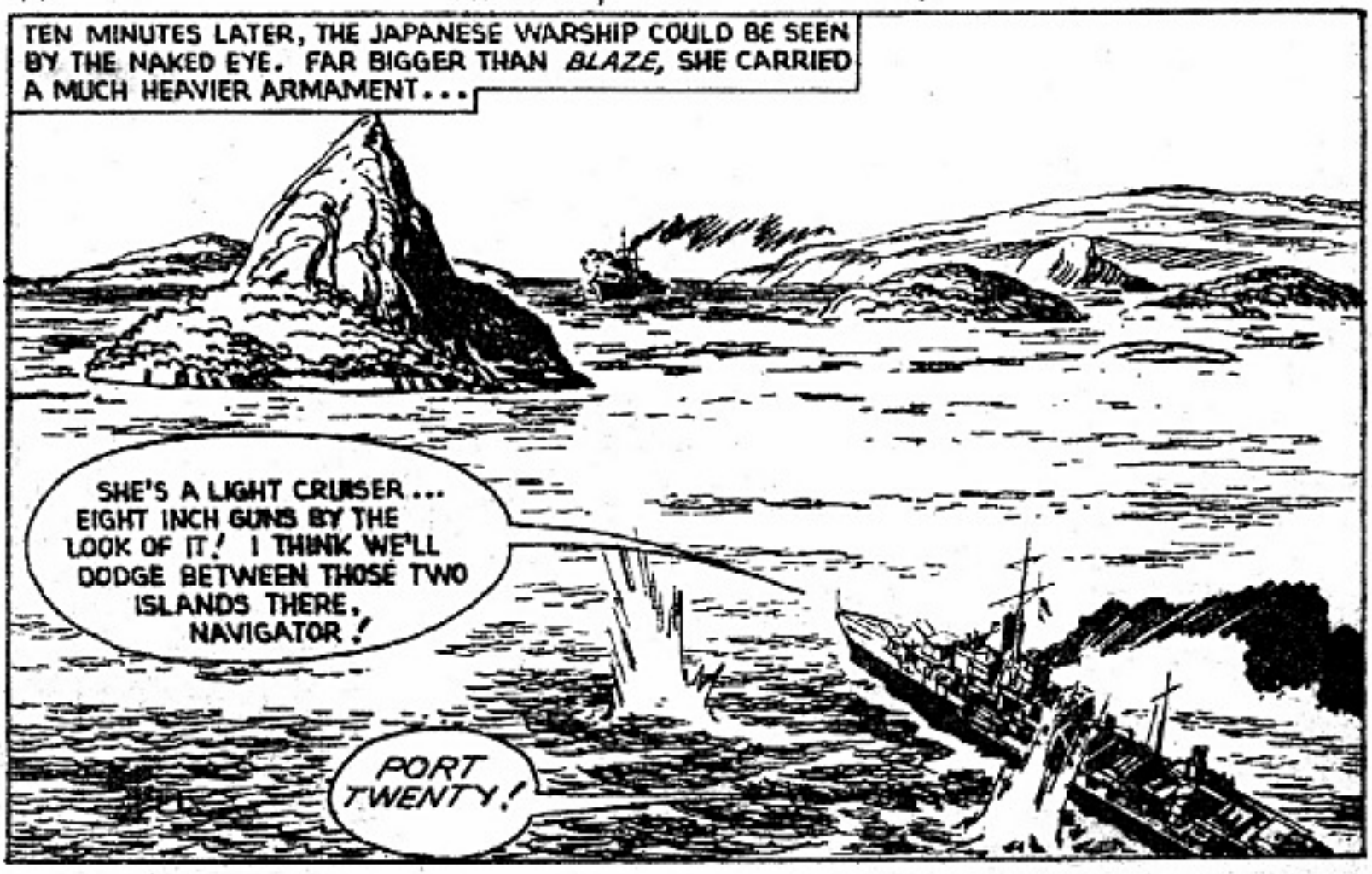
BACK ON THE MESS DECK, RHINO MAITLAND TOLD HIS SHIPMATES THAT THEIR NEW SKIPPER WAS 'ALL RIGHT'. MEANWHILE SAVAGE HAD GONE ASHORE TO TALK EAGERLY TO A THOUGHTFUL COMMODORE . . .

THE COMMODORE STUDIED THE MAP PINNED TO THE WALL.

WHEN DAWN STREAKED THE EASTERN SKY, H.M.S. BLAZE PUT TO SEA TO FIND THE HONOUR SHE HAD LOST. . .

MIKE TOLD NO ONE ON BOARD WHAT HIS ORDERS WERE: THE CREW WATCHED HIM WARILY. HE BEGAN TO REALISE THAT PADDICK, THE FIRST LIEUTENANT, WAS THE BITTEREST OF THEM ALL. PADDICK WAS MIDDLE-AGED, A CORNISHMAN, IN PEACETIME THE SKIPPER OF A FISHING TRAWLER. PERHAPS, AS SECOND IN COMMAND, HE BLAMED HIMSELF FOR HIS SHARE IN THE FLIGHT FROM THE DOOMED CONVOY.
I SUPPOSE THEY'RE SENDING US TO SEA ALONE LIKE THIS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T BEAR TO BE REMINDED OF BLAZE!
YOU CAN STEER OFF THAT COURSE, MISTER PADDICK. BLAZE HAS GOT A JOB TO DO... AND BY THUNDER, SHE'S GOING TO DO IT!

Chapter 2. THE SECRET ORDERS


TEN MINUTES LATER, THE JAPANESE WARSHIP COULD BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE. FAR BIGGER THAN *BLAZE*, SHE CARRIED A MUCH HEAVIER ARMAMENT...
SHE'S A LIGHT CRUISER... EIGHT INCH GUNS BY THE LOOK OF IT! I THINK WE'LL DODGE BETWEEN THOSE TWO ISLANDS THERE, NAVIGATOR!
PORT TWENTY!

MIKE SAVAGE'S ORDER BROUGHT A DARK FLUSH OF BITTERNESS TO THE FRESH FACE OF LIEUTENANT KEVIN!
YOU MEAN WE'RE TURNING TAIL AGAIN, SIR?
I MEAN JUST WHAT I SAY, LIEUTENANT! WE'RE GOING TO WAIT BEHIND THIS ISLAND TILL THE JAP CRUISER'S PASSED US!
IT'S COMMON SENSE! SHE'D BLOW US OUT OF THE WATER IF SHE CAUGHT US!

QUIETLY THE DESTROYER SLID BEHIND THE LARGE ISLAND. NOW SHE WAS HIDDEN FROM THE JAP CRUISER.

ASTERN BOTH TOGETHER! STOP PORT, STOP STARBOARD! NOW, I WANT COMPLETE SILENCE!

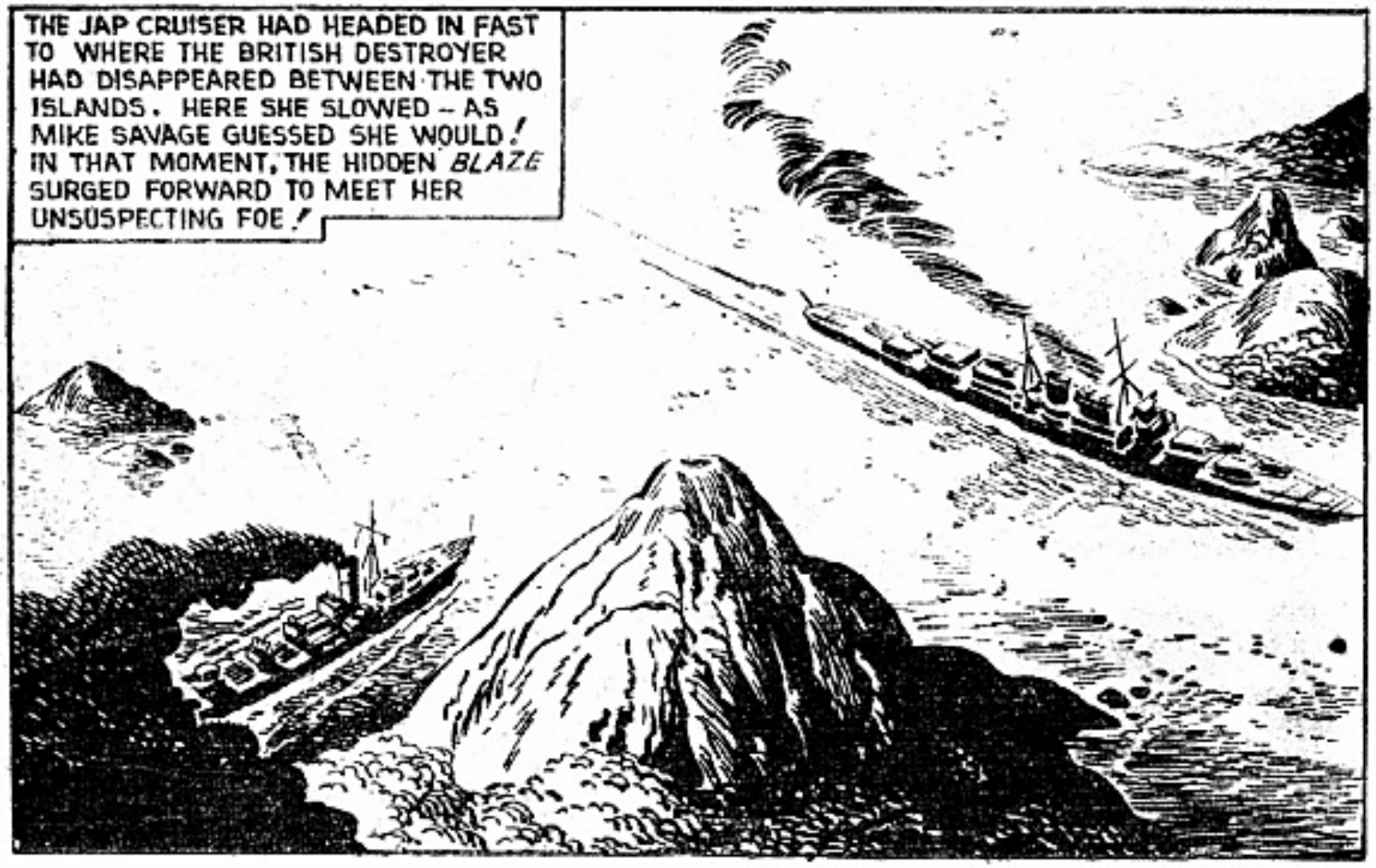
IN THE DEAD SILENCE ON BOARD THE MOTIONLESS DESTROYER, THE MEN'S UNEASINESS TURNED TO ANGER! ONLY RHINO MAITLAND HAD FAITH IN THE NEW SKIPPER ...

THIS NEW ONE'S JUST LIKE OLD WHITEY, RHINO! HERE WE ARE HIDING FROM THE JAPS AGAIN! GOOD OLD TURN-TAIL *BLAZE!*

YOU PIPE DOWN, LOFTY! I TELL YOU THE SAVAGE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

IN THAT TENSE MOMENT, WITH THE JAP CRUISER WITHIN RIFLESHOT OF ITS HIDDEN PREY, MIKE SAVAGE GAVE CRISP ORDERS...
TELL THE ENGINE ROOM I WANT FULL SPEED AS SOON AS I ASK FOR IT! AND STAND BY BOTH TORPEDO TUBES! WE'LL GIVE THAT JAP JUST THREE MORE MINUTES...

DURING THOSE TEN MINUTES OF SILENCE MIKE HAD BEEN MAKING EXACT CALCULATIONS OF THE ENEMY CRUISER'S SPEED, PROBABLE MANOEUVRES AND INTENTIONS. NOW HIS VOICE RAPPED OUT...
FULL AHEAD BOTH! PORT TEN! GUN CREWS CLOSE UP!


THE JAP CRUISER HAD HEADED IN FAST TO WHERE THE BRITISH DESTROYER HAD DISAPPEARED BETWEEN THE TWO ISLANDS. HERE SHE SLOWED – AS MIKE SAVAGE GUESSED SHE WOULD! IN THAT MOMENT, THE HIDDEN BLAZE SURGED FORWARD TO MEET HER UNSUSPECTING FOE!

H.M.S. BLAZE HAD CLEARED THE ISLAND ON HER PORT QUARTER BEFORE THE JAPS SAW HER... MIKE SAVAGE'S MANOEUVRE HAD CAUGHT THEM UTTERLY UNPREPARED!

BLOW NUMBER ONE TUBE! BLOW NUMBER TWO TUBE! ALL GUNS THAT BEAR, RAPID FIRE!

BEFORE THE BIG JAP GUNS COULD BE SLEWED ROUND AND SIGHTED TO THE ALMOST POINT-BLANK RANGE, THE SLIM AND DEADLY TORPEDOES HAD SLAPPED DOWN INTO THE WATER FROM THE DESTROYER'S TWIN TUBES AND ALL HER GUNS WERE HAMMERING ...

TORPEDOES AWAY, SIR!

AYE, LIEUTENANT! NOW DO YOU MIND IF WE STAND OFF? A SHOOTING MATCH AT CLOSE RANGE WON'T BE EXACTLY HEALTHY!

THE TORPEDOES RAN STRAIGHT AND DEADLY TRUE! THEY STRUCK HOME ON THE CRUISER'S FLANK JUST BELOW THE WATERLINE AND A COLUMN OF TORTURED WATER SHOT INTO THE AIR. BUT THE ENEMY GUNS WERE FINDING THE RANGE . . .
PADDICK IS HIT, SIR!
GET HIM BELOW!

HARDLY HAD THE FIRST SHELLS WHIPPED INTO *BLAZE'S* DECK THAN THE STRICKEN CRUISER HEELED OVER AND THE UNSIGHTED JAP GUNS FELL SILENT . . .
PICK UP THAT JAP! JUST ONE! THE OTHERS CAN WAIT ON THE ISLAND FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORT!

ON THE BRIDGE OF *BLAZE* THE OFFICERS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER ... AND GRINNED. THEY FELT A NEW SURGE OF PRIDE IN THEIR SHIP.
MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU, SIR, ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE CREW — AND THANK YOU FOR GIVING US SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT!
WELL, GENTLEMEN, WE CAN RESUME COURSE NOW. WE STILL HAVE OUR ORDERS TO CARRY OUT!

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER MICHAEL SAVAGE KNEW, LOOKING AT HIS MEN, THAT HE HAD NOT ONLY WON A VICTORY OVER THE JAPS, BUT OVER THE SHAME AND GLOOM WHICH HAD WRAPPED H.M.S. BLAZE FOR SO LONG!
I WANT YOU IN MY CABIN, KEVIN: I'M GOING TO QUESTION OUR PRISONER.
AYE AYE, SIR!

AS BLAZE HEADED SOUTH AGAIN AT FULL SPEED, LEAVING THE WRECK OF HER ADVERSARY BEHIND HER . . .
YOU ARE GOING TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, IS THAT UNDERSTOOD? FIRST, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THE KOBE!
SIR, I TALK, I TALK!

MIKE SAVAGE'S FIRST QUESTION SET KEVIN THINKING FURIOUSLY. THE KOBE WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. HER WARPLANES HAD HARASSED THE ALLIED NAVIES EVER SINCE PEARL HARBOUR ...
THE KOBE, EH? SO THAT'S WHAT OUR SECRET ORDERS ARE ABOUT!

THE JAP OFFICER TALKED EAGERLY. MIKE QUESTIONED HIM CLOSELY FOR AN HOUR, AND AT THE END SMILED GRIMLY.
A TALKATIVE JAP FOR A CHANGE! MUSTER THE MEN ON THE FOREDECK, LIEUTENANT. IT'S TIME THEY KNEW WHAT OUR ORDERS ARE!

SO THAT'S OUR QUARRY, MEN... THE *KOBE*. SHE'S ANCHORED IN A BAY THREE HUNDRED MILES SOUTH OF HERE. HER AIRCRAFT ARE DOMINATING THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SHE'S TOO HEAVILY GUARDED BY ACK-ACK GUNS FOR THE R.A.F TO ATTACK HER. BUT A LONE SHIP MIGHT GET IN AND SINK HER... *AND THAT SHIP'S GOING TO BE BLAZE!*

FOR A MOMENT THE MEN WERE SILENT, THEN...
LEAD US TO HER, SIR!
WE'VE ONE JOB TO DO FIRST, MEN! KEVIN, WILL YOU COME TO THE WHEELHOUSE?

IN THE WHEELHOUSE, MIKE SAVAGE OUTLINED HIS PLAN...
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THE KOBE'S AIRCRAFT DON'T CATCH US BEFORE WE CAN ATTACK, KEVIN. NOW, THAT JAP PRISONER SAID THEY WERE SENDING A TRAIN-LOAD OF SUPPLIES INCLUDING AVIATION FUEL DOWN THE COASTAL RAILWAY TO HER. IF WE CAN STOP THAT FUEL REACHING HER...
I GET IT, SIR. SHE'LL BE SO SHORT OF FUEL HER AIRCRAFT WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ROUTINE PATROLS... AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET AT HER UNDETECTED!

MIKE ALREADY LIKED THIS QUICK AND FEARLESS YOUNG IRISHMAN... NOW HE RECOGNISED A MIND AS SHARP AS HIS OWN. HE THOUGHT, WITH A SUDDEN CHILL, OF THE PESSIMISTIC MAN WHO WAS STILL HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND...
YOU'VE PUT IT IN A NUTSHELL, KEVIN. WE'LL DRAW UP DETAILED PLANS LATER. NOW I MUST SEE HOW POOR PADDICK'S SHAPING.

IN THE DESTROYER'S SICK BAY, THE FIRST-LIEUTENANT WAS PROPPED, WHITE-FACED, AGAINST THE PILLOWS . . .
THAT WAS BAD LUCK, MISTER PADDICK!
PERHAPS IT WASN'T, SIR. YOU SEE, I . . . I JUST DON'T TRUST *BLAZE* ANY MORE. THERE'S A JINX ON HER, SIR . . . YOU'LL BE NEEDING A NEW FIRST LIEUTENANT!

WEAKENED IN BODY AND SPIRIT BY HIS WOUND, LIEUTENANT PADDICK WAS NO LONGER FIT FOR DUTY . . .
LIEUTENANT PADDICK IS A SICK MAN! I'M MAKING YOU MY FIRST LIEUTENANT, KEVIN, WITH EFFECT FROM NOW!
AYE, AYE, SIR!

WITH THE EAGER IRISHMAN AS HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND, MIKE FELT MORE CONFIDENT. HE WENT UP TO THE BRIDGE AND GAVE QUIET ORDERS AND IN THE QUICKLY GATHERING TROPICAL DARKNESS, *H.M.S. BLAZE* ALTERED COURSE TOWARDS THE DUSKY OUTLINE OF THE MALAYAN COAST.

ONE HOUR LATER, MIKE CALLED HIS OFFICERS INTO THE WARDROOM. THE PLAN HE OUTLINED WAS SIMPLE ... BUT DANGEROUS!
THAT'S THE PLAN, GENTLEMEN! THE LAUNCH TAKES A LANDING PARTY IN TO THE RIVER MOUTH. FROM THERE WE MARCH INLAND THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO THE BRIDGE. THE SUPPLY TRAIN IS DUE TO CROSS IT ABOUT DAWN TOMORROW... AND THAT'S WHEN WE'LL DYNAMITE IT— TRAIN AND ALL!

AS ONE MAN, THE OFFICERS VOLUNTEERED TO GO ASHORE. MIKE SHOOK HIS HEAD ...
BUT PLEASE, SIR...
PACIFIC OCE
NO, PADDY, YOU STAY ABOARD IN COMMAND. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME YOU'LL TAKE BLAZE SOUTH AND TRY TO CARRY OUT ORDERS. I'LL GO ASHORE AT MIDNIGHT WITH YOU, A'COURT, AND TWELVE MEN.

Chapter 3. JUNGLE ATTACK

THE SEAMEN SLIPPED LIKE SHADOWS INTO THE THICK, PATHLESS JUNGLE ...
KEEP CLOSED UP, MEN!

AFTER THREE HOURS OF HARD MARCHING, THE JUNGLE SUDDENLY ENDED ... THEY HAD REACHED THE RAILWAY BRIDGE.
IT'S GUARDED ALL RIGHT! THERE'S A HUT ON THIS SIDE OF THE BRIDGE WITH A LIGHT MACHINE-GUN. NOTHING ON THE OTHER SIDE. I CAN SEE FOUR... NO, FIVE JAP SOLDIERS!

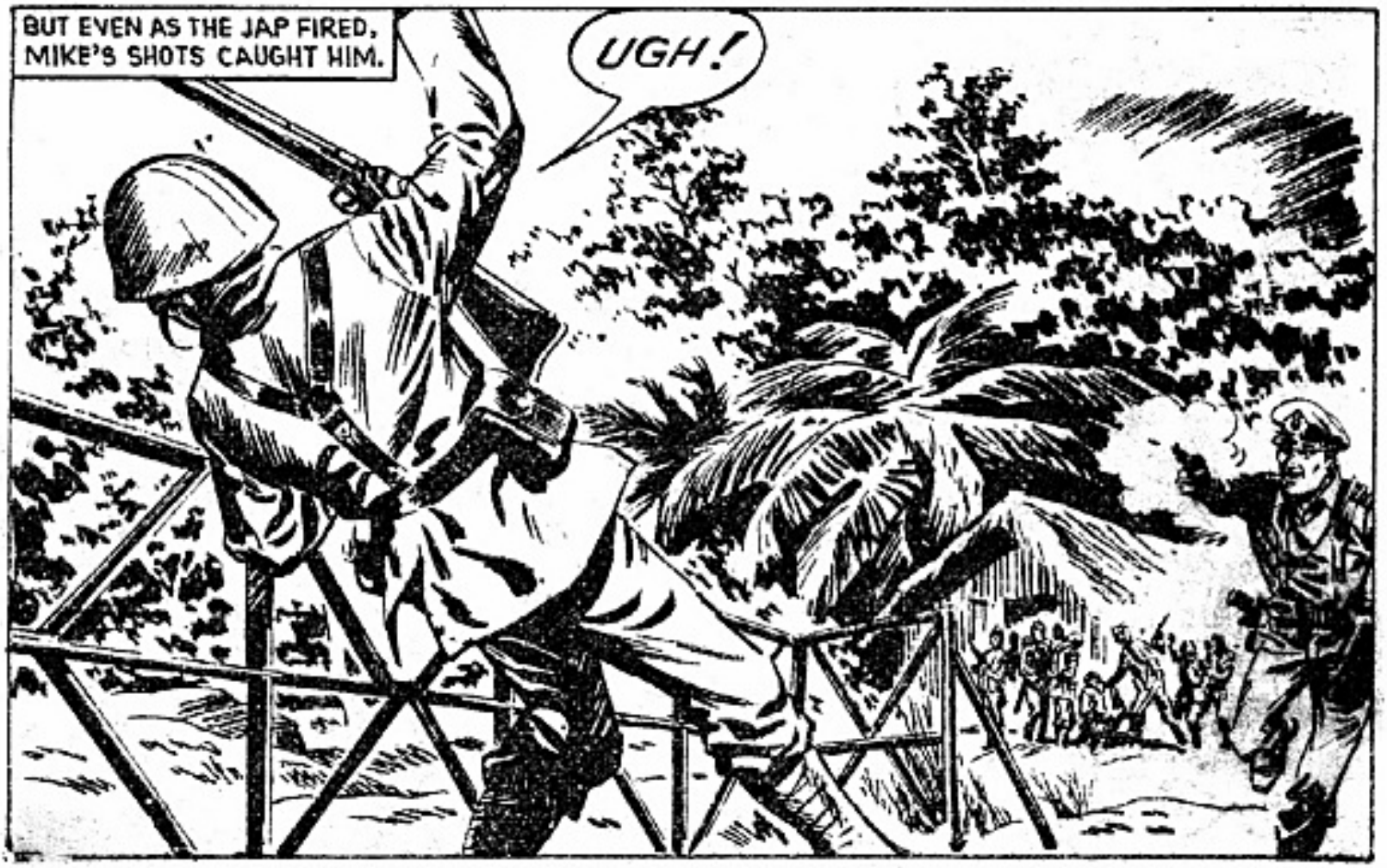
GRIMLY THE MEN FROM H.M.S. BLAZE GATHERED ROUND THEIR LEADER . . .
WE ATTACK AT DAWN! I LEAD ELEVEN MEN ON THE MACHINE-GUN POST. A'COURT, YOU AND MAITLAND PLANT THE DYNAMITE UNDER THE BRIDGE. YOU'VE ONLY GOT A TEN-SECOND FUSE, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST ONCE YOU'VE SET IT OFF!
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!

WHEN THE FIRST LIGHT STREAKED THE SKY, THE JAPANESE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE GUARD POST CAME LAZILY TO THE DOOR OF THE HUT AND GLANCED AT HIS WATCH. IT HAD BEEN A QUIET NIGHT, LIKE ALL THE OTHER NIGHTS. HE WAS BORED . . .
THE TRAIN COMES IN FIVE MINUTES. WAKE YOURSELVES UP!

AS THE FIRST FAINT THROB OF THE DISTANT TRAIN SHOOK THE RAILS, A SUDDEN SHOUT TRANSFIXED THE JAP GUARDS . . .
LET 'EM HAVE IT, MEN!

BANZAI!

MIKE TURNED SWIFTLY TO DEAL WITH THE RUSH OF THE GUARDS FROM THE BRIDGE. SUDDENLY HE SHOUTED A WARNING ...
WATCH IT DOWN THERE, RHINO!


BUT EVEN AS THE JAP FIRED, MIKE'S SHOTS CAUGHT HIM.
UGH!

THAT SINGLE SHOT FROM THE JAP GUARD HIT RHINO MAITLAND IN THE SHOULDER AND KNOCKED HIM SPRAWLING. WITH A SPLIT-SECOND DECISION, MIKE WENT TO THE RESCUE!

GET OUT OF SIGHT, MEN! I'LL JOIN YOU WITH THE OTHERS ON THE RIDGE!

THE BLAST OF THE EXPLOSION SLAMMED LIKE A GREAT HAND AT THE RUNNING MEN! THEY FLUNG THEMSELVES DOWN ON THE STEEP SLOPE AS THE BRIDGE SHIVERED BEHIND THEM . . .
DOWN!

THE WHOLE BRIDGE SWAYED AND BUCKLED, SPILLING THE ENGINE AND ITS LOADED TRUCKS LIKE TOYS INTO THE GORGE BELOW . . .
YOU GO ON, SIR . . . I CAN MANAGE . . .
WE'VE DONE IT! NOW WE'VE GOT TO JOIN THE OTHERS BEFORE THOSE JAP SOLDIERS SPOT US!

HOWLING WITH RAGE, THE JAP SOLDIERS JUMPED DOWN FROM THE TWO TRUCKS WHICH HAD SURVIVED THE CATASTROPHE ...
IF THE OTHERS WAIT FOR US ON THE RIDGE, SIR, THEY'LL BE NAILED BY THE JAPS!
LET'S HOPE THEY'VE GOT ENOUGH SENSE TO GO ON! AND YOU PIPE DOWN, RHINO, WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU BEHIND!
4
3

THE THREE MEN STUMBLED GRIMLY UPWARDS ... AND SUDDENLY THE BUSHES AHEAD SHOOK ...
SORRY, SIR, BUT WE COULDN'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT ON THE RIDGE, MEN ... BUT I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT GLAD TO SEE YOU!

THE REST OF THE SHORE PARTY HAD CHOSEN TO STAY WITH THEIR SKIPPER ... IN THE JAP TRAP!
THE JAPS HAVE CUT US OFF! NOW WHAT?
SIR! SIR! A BOAT!

UNEXPECTED HELP WAS AT HAND ...
WHAT'S THAT CRAZY YOUNG FOOL OF A MIDSHIPMAN DOING HERE? BUT BLESS HIM!

THE YOUTHFUL MIDSHIPMAN'S INSPIRED DISOBEDIENCE HAD SAVED THE SHORE PARTY.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED TRANSPORT BACK TO BLAZE, SIR... SO I DIDN'T WAIT FOR ORDERS!
NICE WORK, THOMPSON! BUT DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

THE DARING OPERATION HAD PROVED THAT THERE WAS NO LACK OF COURAGE AMONG BLAZE'S CREW. AND AS THE LAUNCH SWEPT UPSTREAM, A CHANCE REMARK FROM A RATING PROVED THAT THEIR PRIDE AND AFFECTION FOR THEIR SHIP HAD RETURNED...
WELL, THAT'S THE KOBE'S AVIATION FUEL GONE UP IN SMOKE! GOOD WORK, MEN!
NOW BACK TO GOOD OLD BLAZE!

MIKE SAVAGE HIMSELF, LOOKING AHEAD AT THE LEAN GREY SHAPE OF HIS SHIP, FELT A SURGE OF PRIDE GRIPPING AT HIS THROAT!
HOW DID IT GO, SIR?
IT WENT, PADDY... TRAIN AND ALL! NOW FOR THE KOBE!

THIS WAS HIS SHIP... AND HE AND HIS MEN WOULD MAKE THE REST OF THE NAVY AS PROUD OF THE BLAZE AS THEY THEMSELVES WERE NOW!
SET COURSE DUE SOUTH, MISTER A'COURT! MISTER KEVIN, I WANT YOU AND THE OTHER OFFICERS TO JOIN ME IN THE WARDROOM. WE CAN'T JUST BARGE IN ON THE KOBE!

Chapter 4. BATTLE STATIONS

MIKE KNEW, BEFORE PADDY KEVIN SPOKE, WHAT THE ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION WOULD BE . . .
IT'S CRAZY ALL RIGHT, SIR! BUT BLAZE CAN DO IT!
HEAR! HEAR!

BY NIGHTFALL H.M.S. BLAZE WOULD REACH HER OBJECTIVE . . . AND WOULD FIND AGAIN THE HONOUR SHE HAD LOST OR LOSE IT AGAIN FOR EVER.
THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN! WE SHALL REACH THE BAY IN TEN HOUR'S SAILING. LET'S HOPE THAT AVIATION FUEL WE SPILLED WILL KEEP THE KOBE'S AIRCRAFT GROUNDED UNTIL WE REACH HER!

OUTSIDE THE WARDROOM, MIKE PAUSED. PALE AND BITTER, LIEUTENANT PADDICK STARED AT HIM LIKE A GLOOMY GHOST FROM *BLAZE'S* SHAMEFUL PAST!
HULLO THERE, MISTER PADDICK!
SO YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ON THE *KOBE*, SIR... SINGLE-HANDED? YOU KNOW SHE'LL SINK *BLAZE*, DON'T YOU?

THE MAN'S HARSH VOICE STUNG MIKE SAVAGE. HE REMEMBERED RHINO MAITLAND...
BACK IN TRINCO I ASKED A RATING FROM THIS SHIP IF IT WASN'T FOOLISH TO TAKE ON SIX MEN SINGLE-HANDED! DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID, MISTER PADDICK? *"IT MAY BE FOOLISH, SIR, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN RUNNING AWAY!"* AND I AGREE WITH HIM!

THE SICK CORNISHMAN STARED SULLENLY OUT TO SEA. AS MIKE CROSSED THE DECK TO THE BRIDGE, A CHEERFUL YOUNG VOICE HAILED HIM...
THE WIND'S STIFFENING, SIR! I THINK THERE'S A STORM BLOWING UP!
LET'S HOPE IT HITS US BY NIGHTFALL, THOMPSON!

THE WIND HAD VEERED TO THE WEST AND FRESHENED. A SHORT, STIFF SEA CUFFED *BLAZE'S* WEATHERSTAINED BOWS AS SHE PLOUGHED SOUTH ...

BY NIGHTFALL A GALE WAS BLOWING. COMING ON TO THE BRIDGE, MIKE SAVAGE RUBBED HIS HANDS...

ONE HOUR AFTER MIDNIGHT, GENTLEMEN! WE'LL GIVE IT ANOTHER HOUR AND THEN WE'LL GO IN! GIVE THE MEN A TOT AND CLOSE THEM UP TO BATTLE STATIONS!

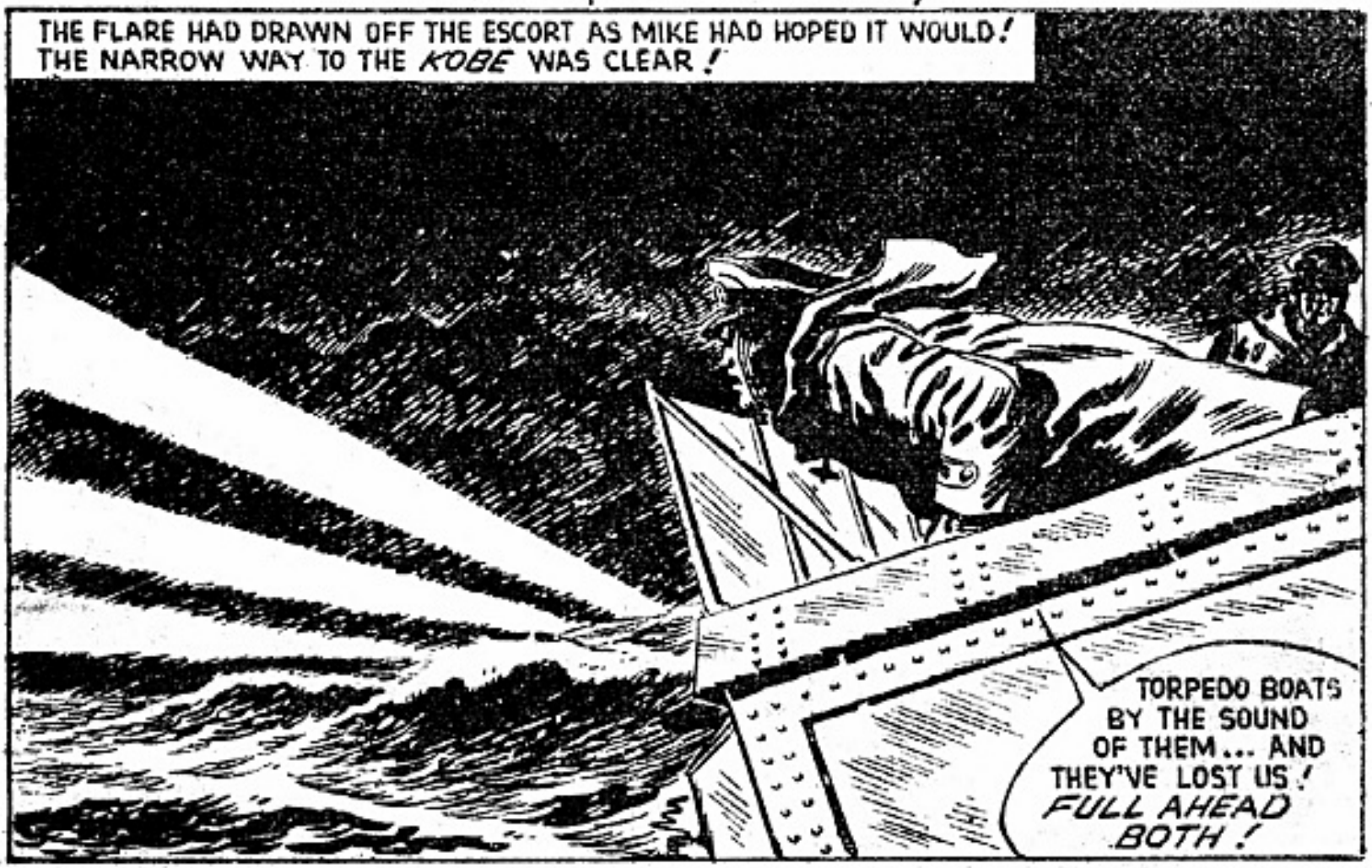
TOTS OF RUM WERE ISSUED ON THE MESS DECKS. THE MEN WERE TENSE BUT DETERMINED. THIS WAS THE WORST MOMENT...*THE MINUTES OF WAITING FOR THE STRIDENT CALL TO ACTION!*

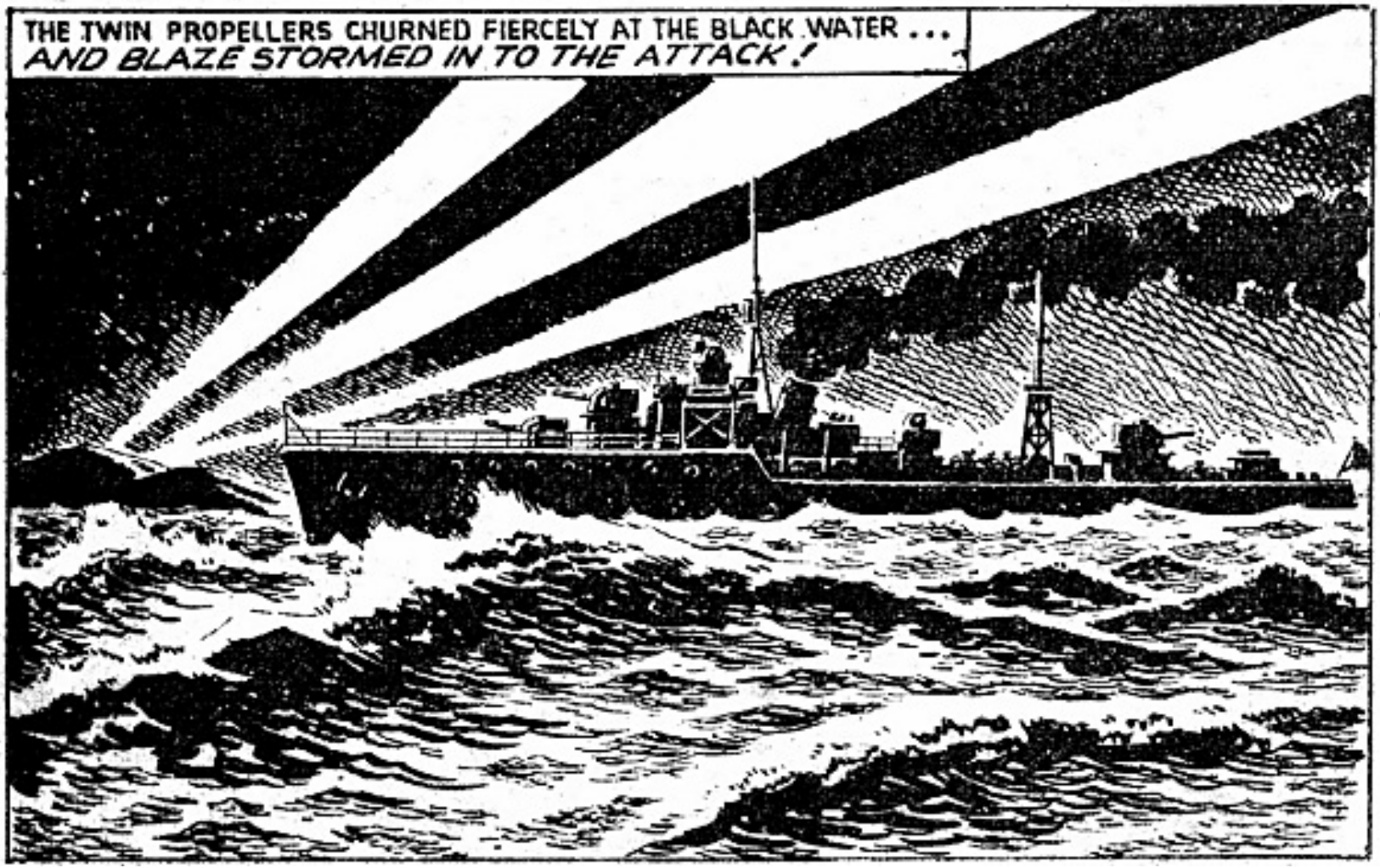
WATERTIGHT DOORS WERE SLAMMED AND LOCKED, SEA BOOTS THUDDED ALONG THE NARROW STEEL COMPANIONWAYS... *BLAZE WAS READY FOR ACTION!*

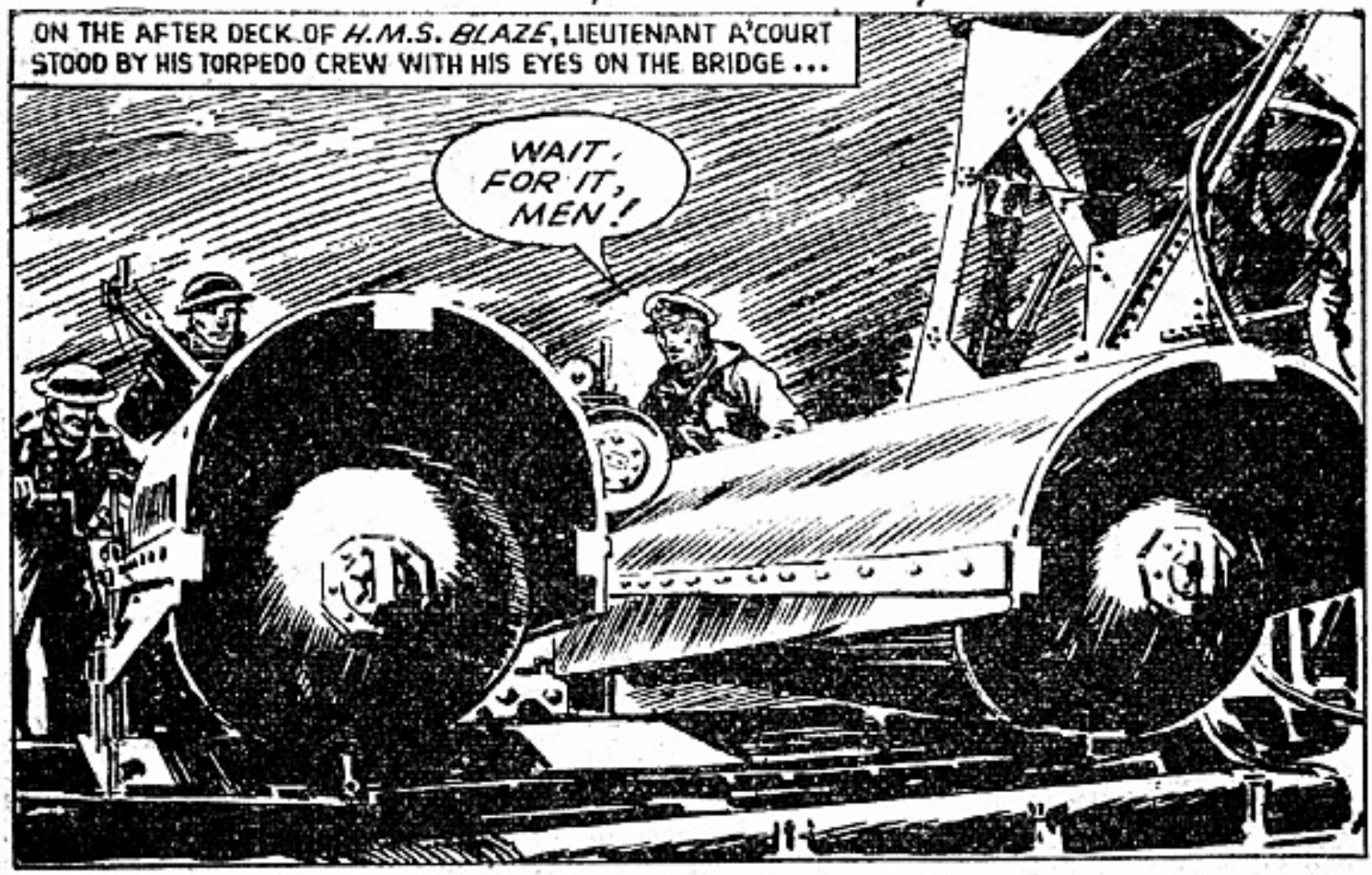
THE SUBDUED CLAMOUR ABOARD DIED AWAY AS THE CREW CLOSED UP TO ACTION STATIONS. ENGINES STOPPED, *BLAZE* ROLLED UNEASILY TO THE HEAVY SWELL IN UTTER SILENCE ...
FIRE THAT VEREY PISTOL, MISTER A'COURT! LET'S SEE WHERE THE *KOBE'S* ESCORT IS!

THE FLARE SOARED HIGH AND WIDE OVER THE DARK SEA AND BURST IN A BLINDING DAZZLE...
HERE THEY COME, WHATEVER THEY ARE. TELL THE ENGINE ROOM TO STAND BY, MISTER KEVIN!

THE JAPANESE HAD RELIED ON THE HEAVY GUNS OF THE ISLAND TO GUARD THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN ITS SAFE ANCHORAGE. THREE FAST MOTOR-TORPEDO-BOATS WERE ITS ONLY EFFECTIVE ESCORTS... AND THEY CAME ROARING OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE STRANGE FLARE.


THE FLARE HAD DRAWN OFF THE ESCORT AS MIKE HAD HOPED IT WOULD! THE NARROW WAY TO THE *KOBE* WAS CLEAR!
TORPEDO BOATS BY THE SOUND OF THEM... AND THEY'VE LOST US! *FULL AHEAD BOTH!*


THE TWIN PROPELLERS CHURNED FIERCELY AT THE BLACK WATER... *AND BLAZE STORMED IN TO THE ATTACK!*


ON THE AFTER DECK OF H.M.S. BLAZE, LIEUTENANT A'COURT STOOD BY HIS TORPEDO CREW WITH HIS EYES ON THE BRIDGE ...
WAIT FOR IT, MEN!

FROM THE BRIDGE, THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, KOBE, COULD NOW BE SEEN AHEAD ...
THEY MUST SPOT US SOON...

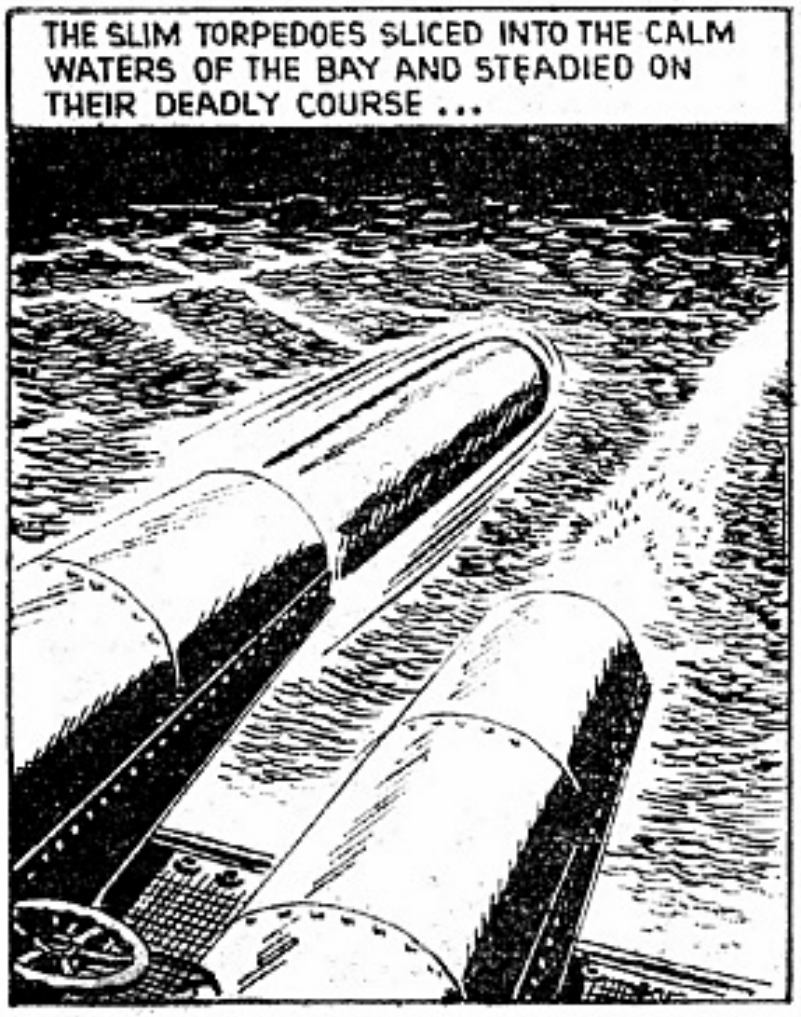
FOR WHAT SEEMED A LONG TWENTY SECONDS, BLAZE CLOSED WITH HER GIGANTIC ADVERSARY IN THE DARKNESS. THEN, AT LAST, THE THROB OF HER ENGINES ROUSED THE SLEEPY LOOKOUTS ...
SUNTAY! A DESTROYER COMES!

ALARM BELLS SHRILLED ON THE CARRIER, MEN RAN FRANTICALLY ... AND AT THE OTHER END OF THAT GLOWING PENCIL OF LIGHT...
ALL GUNS THAT BEAR — RAPID FIRE! MISTER KEVIN, TELL A'COURT TO STAND BY WITH THE TORPEDOES TILL I GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE!

H.M.S. BLAZE HEELED TO THE FIRST SALVO...
THAT'S PUT OUT ONE OF THE JAP EYES!

EVEN AS *BLAZE'S* GUNS SPOKE, THE FIRST SHELLS FROM THE *KOBE* RIPPED INTO HER DECKS. *BLAZE* SHUDDERED AND PLOUGHED ON ...

A WIDE-OPEN TARGET AS SHE HELD HER COURSE, THE TINY BRITISH SHIP WAS RAKED FROM STEM TO STERN BY THE PUNISHING GUNS OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER. THEN ...
NOW, MISTER KEVIN! BLOW NUMBER ONE TUBE! BLOW NUMBER TWO TUBE!


THE SLIM TORPEDOES SLICED INTO THE CALM WATERS OF THE BAY AND STEADIED ON THEIR DEADLY COURSE ...

TWENTY SECONDS LATER, THE JAP OFFICERS ON THE KOBE SAW THE WHITE SCARS OF THE TORPEDO TRACKS ...
AAGH! TORPEDOES!

THE TORPEDOES HIT THE *KOBE* SQUARELY AMIDSHIPS AND BELOW THE WATERLINE...
WE DID IT!

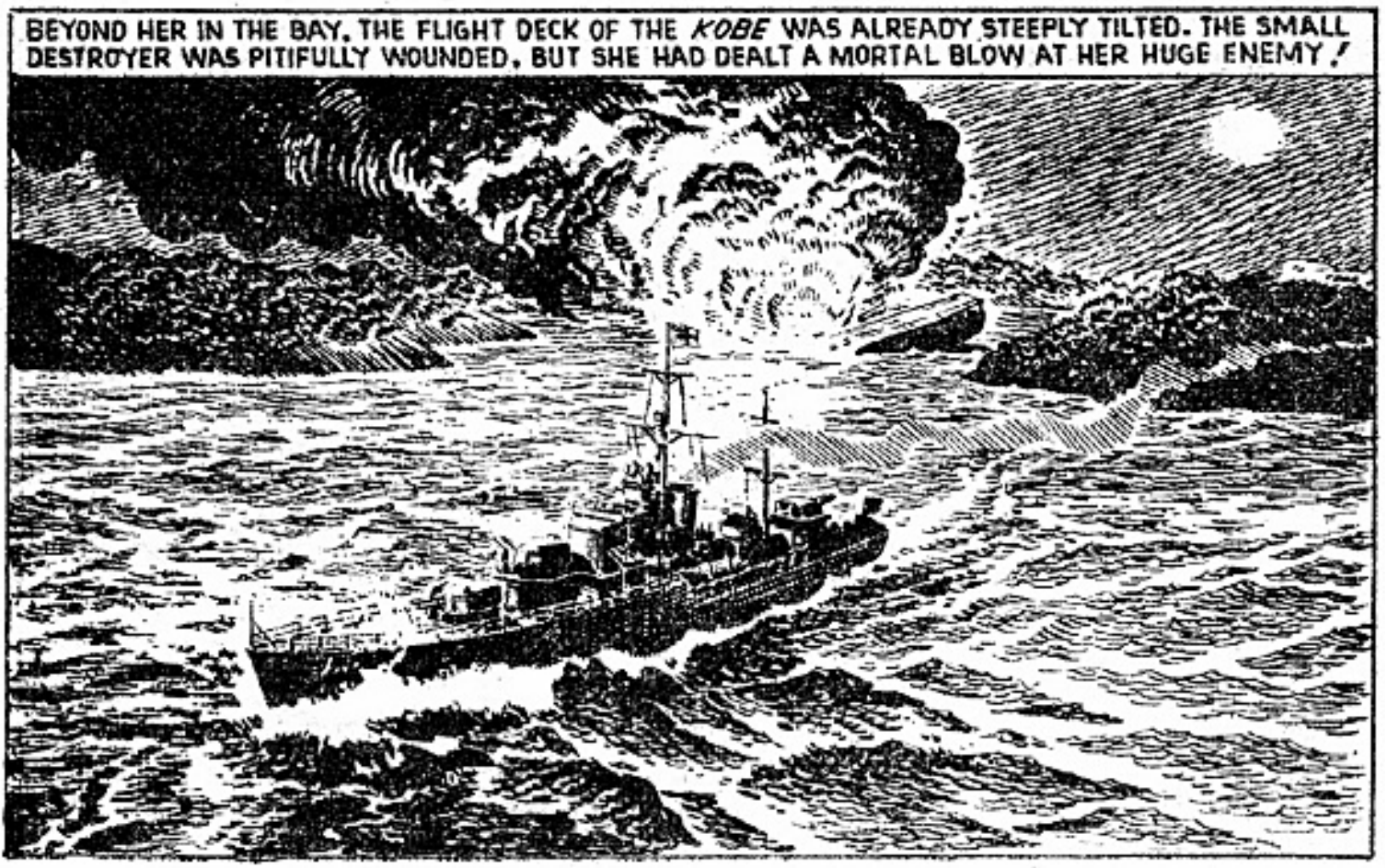
THE CREW OF *H.M.S. BLAZE* LOOKED BACK JUBILANTLY FOR A BRIEF INSTANT... AND THEN TURNED AGAIN TO THE DESPERATE WORK OF CLEARING THE SHATTERED DECKS AND FIGHTING THE HUNGRY FLAMES ...

EVEN IN THAT MOMENT OF TRIUMPH, MIKE SAVAGE WAS AWARE OF THE SLIGHT CHECK IN *BLAZE'S* POWERFUL FORWARD URGE...

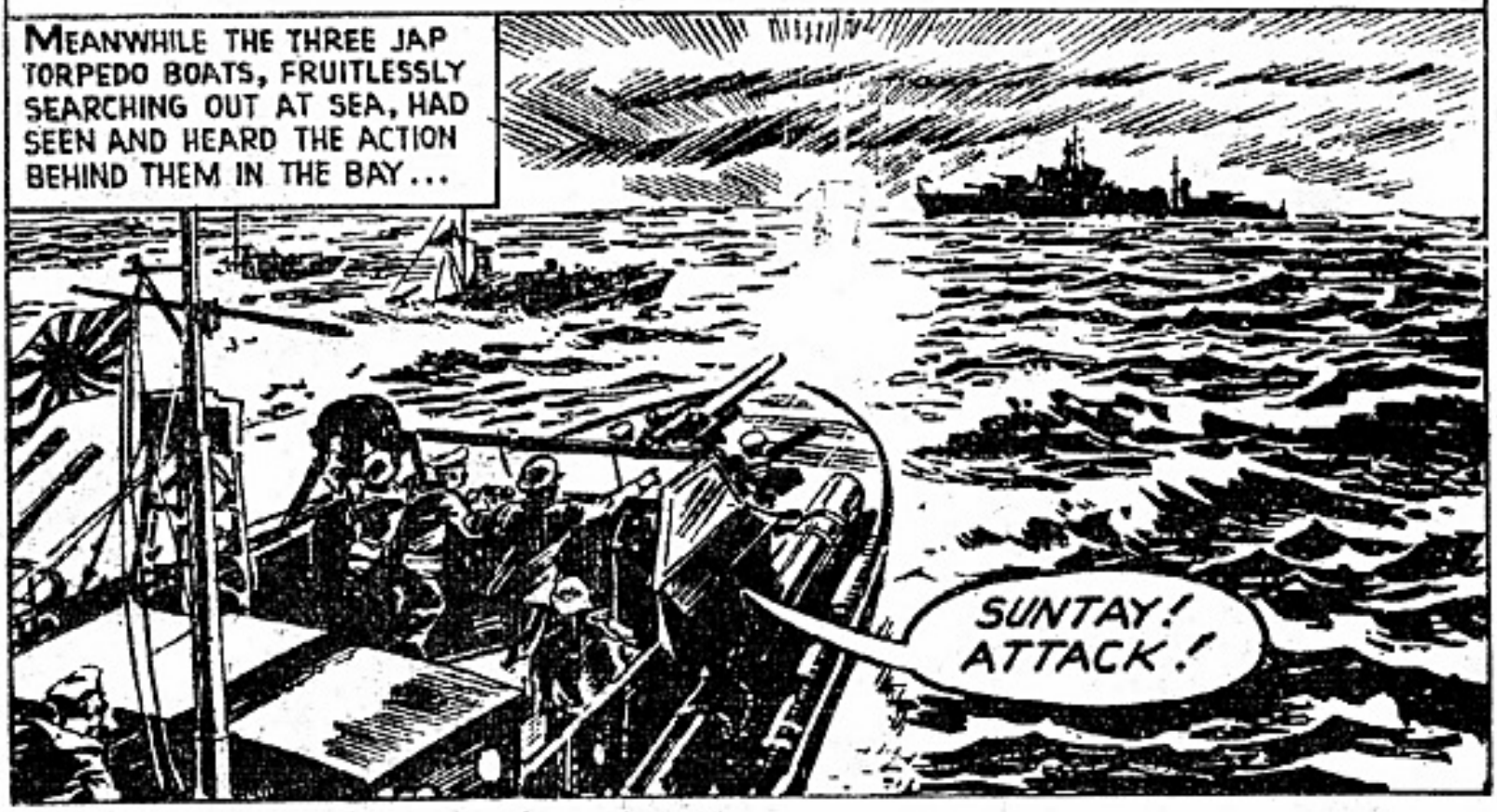
TELL THAT HELMSMAN TO HOLD US ON COURSE!

STEERING CONTROL'S GONE, SIR! MUST HAVE BEEN THAT HIT ON THE AFTER DECK! I'M GOING OVER TO AUXILIARY!

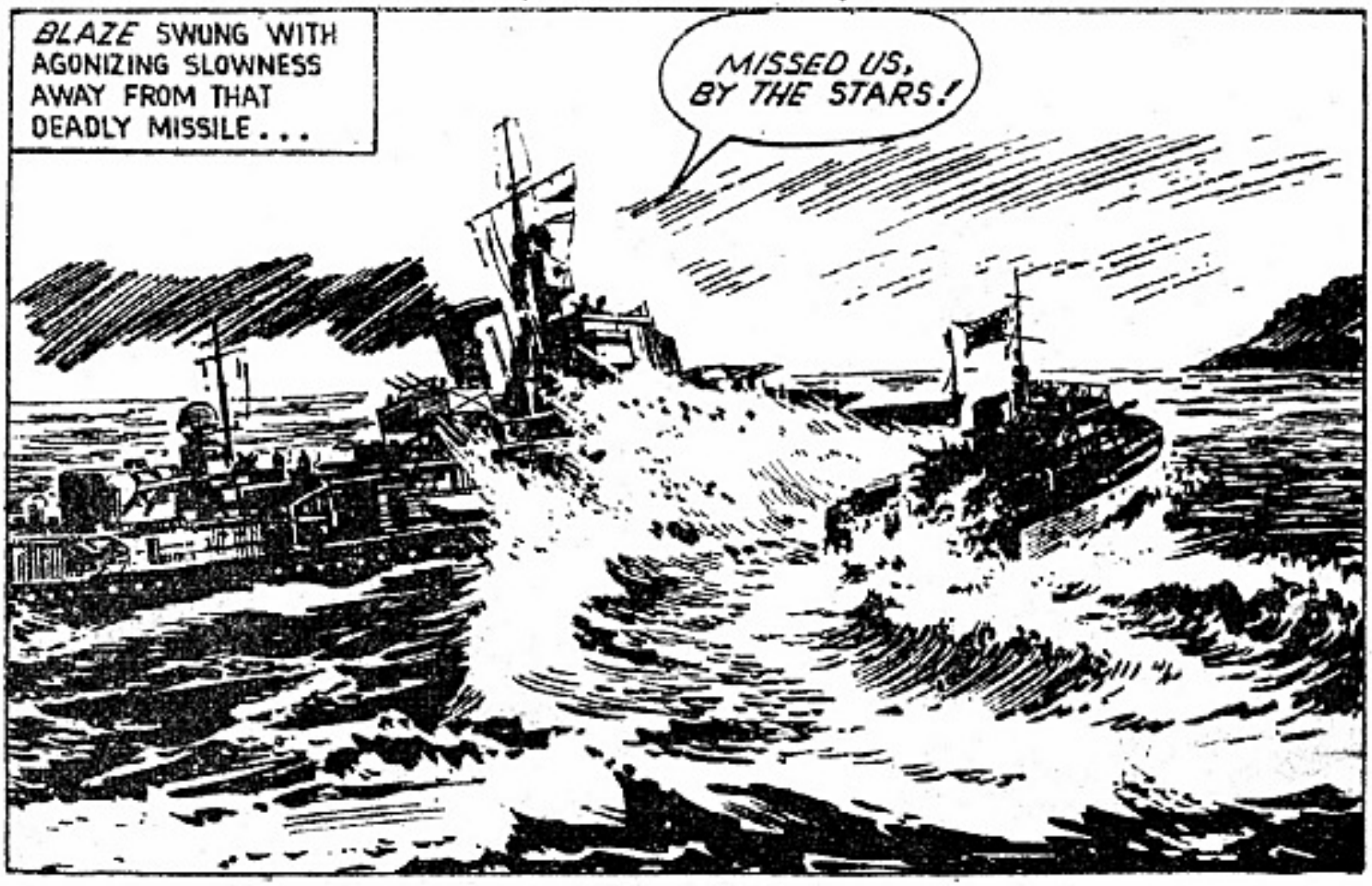
UNDER MANUAL CONTROL, H.M.S. BLAZE HEADED FOR THE OPEN SEA...
STARBOARD TWENTY! STEADY AS SHE GOES!


BEYOND HER IN THE BAY, THE FLIGHT DECK OF THE KOBE WAS ALREADY STEEPLY TILTED. THE SMALL DESTROYER WAS PITIFULLY WOUNDED, BUT SHE HAD DEALT A MORTAL BLOW AT HER HUGE ENEMY!

Chapter 5. H.M.S BLAZE FIGHTS ON



THE TORPEDO BOATS FANNED OUT, TWO ATTACKING FROM THE DESTROYER'S STARBOARD SIDE, THE THIRD TO PORT...
TORPEDO! STARBOARD SIDE!
STARBOARD FORTY! I WANT ALL THE POWER McKENZIE'S GOT LEFT!


BLAZE SWUNG WITH AGONIZING SLOWNESS AWAY FROM THAT DEADLY MISSILE . . .
MISSED US, BY THE STARS!

THE THIRD AND REMAINING TORPEDO BOAT FLED FOR THE SHELTER OF THE BAY WHERE THE STRICKEN KOBE WAS HEELING OVER. IT SEEMED, AT LAST THAT, CRIPPLED AS SHE WAS, H.M.S. BLAZE HAD WON THROUGH TO VICTORY . . .

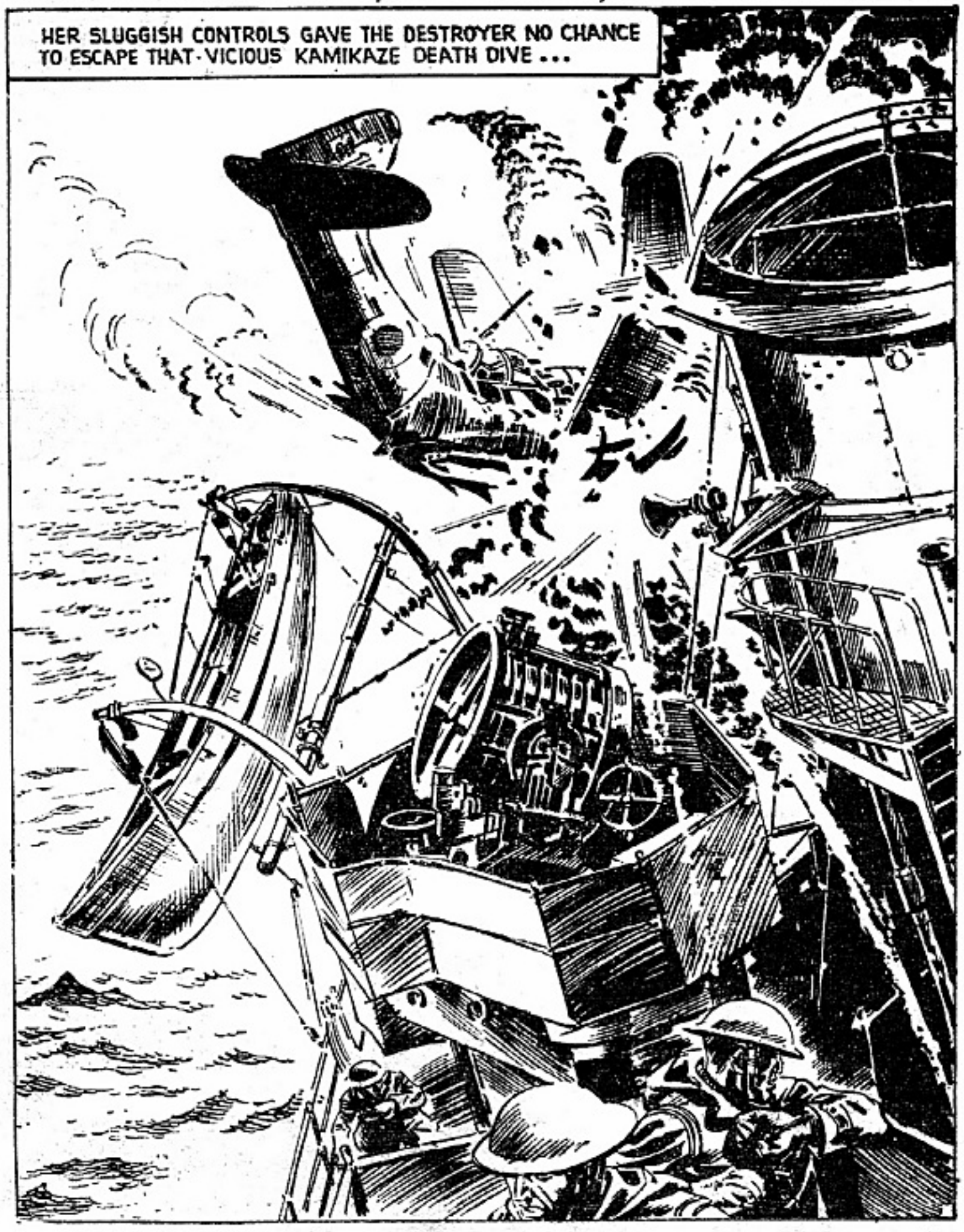
OFFICERS AND MEN RELAXED AND GRINNED AT EACH OTHER... THEY KNEW THAT *BLAZE* HAD REDEEMED HER HONOUR IN THE FIRES OF BATTLE...
WELL, GENTLEMEN, I THINK WE CAN BREAK RADIO SILENCE TO MAKE A SIGNAL NOW! THE ENEMY KNOW WE'RE HERE!
I'D LIKE TO BE IN TRINCO WHEN THAT SIGNAL COMES THROUGH! *GOOD OLD BLAZE!*

SOON, THROUGH A LACONIC WIRELESS MESSAGE, THE WORLD WOULD KNOW...
SIGNAL TO BASE. *BLAZE HAS CARRIED OUT HER MISSION SUCCESSFULLY!*

THE SORELY-DAMAGED *BLAZE* STRAIGHTENED ON HER HOMEWARD COURSE...
WE'LL GET BACK, SIR, I KNOW IT! THE *KOBE'S* AIRCRAFT ARE DITCHED FOR GOOD!
DON'T TALK TOO SOON, PADDY!

THEN, OUT OF THE TREACHEROUS BLUE SKY, CAME THE SINISTER THROB OF AN AIRCRAFT ENGINE...
ONE OF HER PLANES MUST HAVE BEEN ON PATROL WHEN WE ATTACKED THE *KOBE*! *ALERT THERE, BRIDGE!*

MADDENED AT THE SIGHT OF HIS SINKING SHIP, THE JAP PILOT HURLED HIS PLANE AT *H.M.S. BLAZE*...
BLOW HIM OUT OF THE SKY! *IT'S A SUICIDE PLANE!*


HER SLUGGISH CONTROLS GAVE THE DESTROYER NO CHANCE TO ESCAPE THAT VICIOUS KAMIKAZE DEATH DIVE ...

MIKE SAVAGE WAS FLUNG TO THE DECK. FIERCELY HE HAULED HIMSELF UPRIGHT...
SHE MUST KEEP AFLOAT NOW... SHE MUST!

BUT WHEN HE LOOKED UP, THE YOUNG CAPTAIN KNEW THAT H.M.S. BLAZE WAS DOOMED... BITTERLY HE GAVE THE MOST TERRIBLE OF ALL COMMANDS AT SEA...
ABANDON SHIP!

IN THOSE LAST DESPERATE MOMENTS, MIKE DID NOT FORGET THE WOUNDED CORNISHMAN, PADDICK...
THERE'S A LIFEBOAT HERE, SIR! HURRY!
I'VE GOT TO GET PADDICK!

BUT THE WOUNDED MAN STRUGGLED WITH HIS RESCUERS...
I'VE GOT HIM, SIR... BUT HE WANTS TO STAY!
DON'T BE A FOOL, PADDICK! THERE'S STILL WORK FOR US TO DO!

BLAZE IS DYING PROUDLY... LET ME DIE WITH HER!

AS THE BOAT JERKED AWAY FROM THE DOOMED SHIP, LIEUTENANT PADDICK GATHERED THE LAST OUNCES OF HIS ONCE-GREAT STRENGTH...
PADDICK!

HE HAD SHARED THE SHAME OF *H.M.S. BLAZE*... NOW HE WOULD SHARE ITS DYING HONOUR...

HE'S GONE... THE POOR CRAZY HERO!

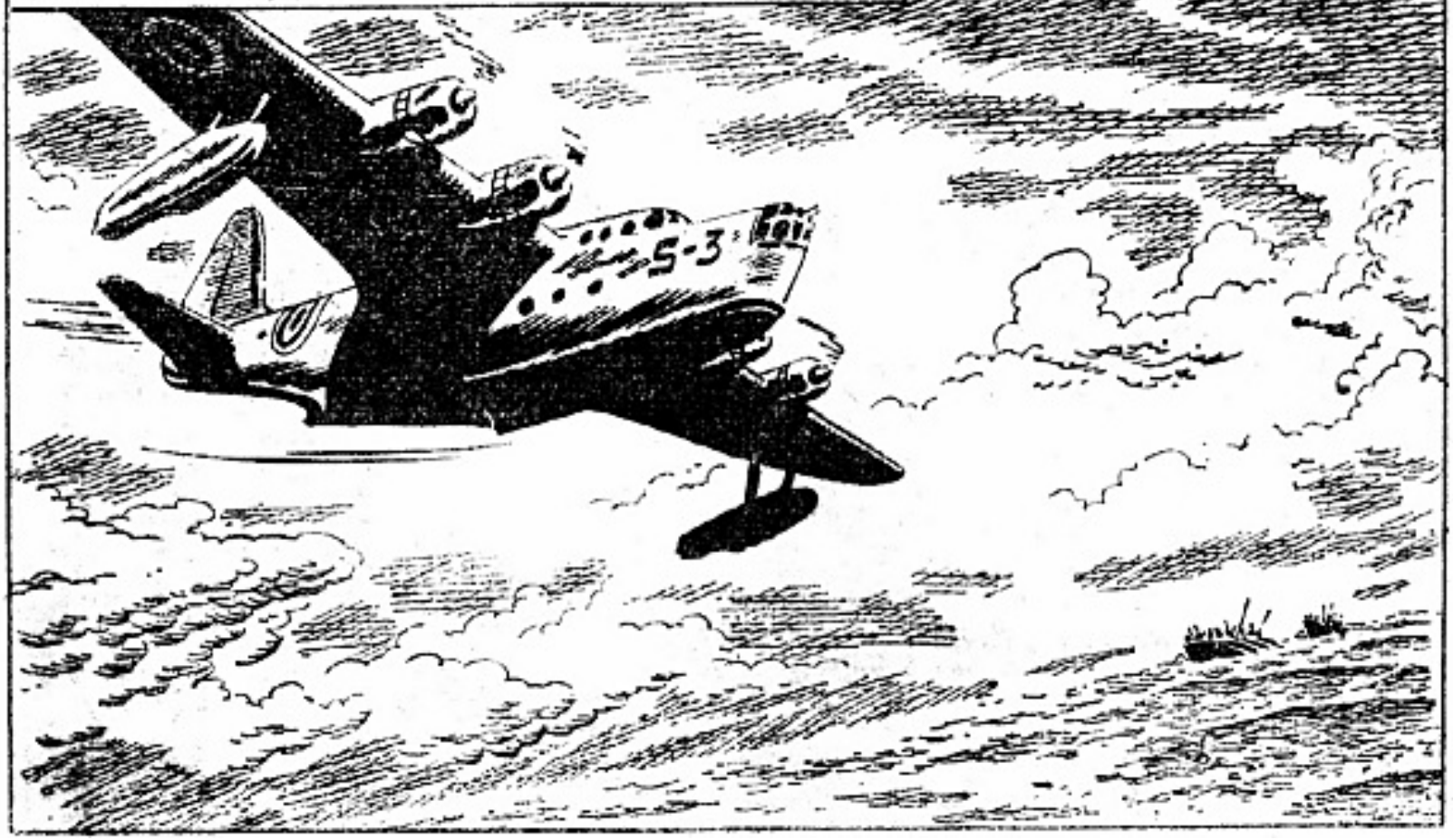
THE BOATS RODE ON A CALM SEA UNDER A PEACEFUL SKY... *AND A SHIP DIED!*

GOODBYE, *BLAZE!* YOU WERE A GOOD SHIP!

NUMBED BY SHOCK, THE SURVIVORS STARED AT THE EMPTY SEA... BUT ONE LOOKED UP INTO THE SKY . . .

I'M SEEING THINGS... NO, I'M NOT! *IT'S A PLANE!*

WARNED BY THE LAST RADIO MESSAGE FROM THE STRICKEN SHIP, BASE HAD DIRECTED ALL BRITISH AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA TO PICK UP THE SURVIVORS . . .



THESE MEN HAD SAILED OUT FROM TRINCOMALEE TO JEERS... NOW THEY RETURNED TO CHEERS!
I SALUTE YOU, SAVAGE... AND H.M.S. BLAZE AS WELL. THERE'S A NEW DESTROYER FOR YOU ON ITS WAY HERE FROM THE U.K., MY BOY!

AFTER A TRIUMPHANT WEEK IN THE FAR EASTERN NAVAL BASE, MIKE SAVAGE, NOW PROMOTED COMMANDER, AND PADDY KEVIN WERE INTRODUCED TO THEIR NEW SHIP...
THERE SHE IS, COMMANDER SAVAGE... THE VERY LATEST TYPE, AND SHE'S ALL YOURS. NOW COME AND SEE SOMETHING ELSE!

Printed in England by Messrs. Percy Brothers Ltd., Manchester 1, and published on the third Thursday in each month by The Amalgamated Press, Ltd., The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Advertisement Offices: Tallis House, Tallis Street, London, E.C.4. Sole Agents: Australasia, Messrs. Gordon & Gotch, Ltd.; South Africa, Central News Agency, Ltd.; Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Messrs. Kingstons, Ltd. WAR PICTURE LIBRARY is sold subject to the following conditions, that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade except at the full retail price as shown on the cover; and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition, or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade; or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

20.11.58

ALSO ON SALE NOW

WAR PICTURE LIBRARY No. 6

FOR VALOUR

War on land, sea, and in the air. The true stories of three brave men of World War II, who, for their heroism beyond the call of duty, were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Told in thrill-packed pictures.

DON'T FORGET !

FOR THRILLS . . . ACTION . . . DRAMA

WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

Next month's two exciting issues, which will be on sale Monday, 15th December, are :

No. 7. THE RED DEVILS

No. 8. WINGS OVER THE NAVY

Order Your Copies today !

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO ENJOY STAMP COLLECTING

ALL ONLY 1/- WORTH 5/6

LARGE ALBUM & STAMP COLLECTION

1. LARGE STAMP ALBUM. Spaces for thousands of stamps from all over the world. Illustrations on every page—yet you have space for any stamp—from any country. Extra features include unique coloured reproductions of World's Greatest Rarities and Photos of Famous Collectors. Better than albums sold for 2/- to 3/6 everywhere.

2. IMPORTED COLLECTION OF STAMPS. MONACO—Grace Kelly Wedding. FRENCH ANTARCTICA—First stamp from fantastic new country! CHINA—Great Wall Airmail. IT. SOMALI—Flowers. ETHIOPIA—Red X. ESTONIA—Nazi "Dorpat." RED CHINA—Imperf. Dozens of other fascinating stamps. Grand total 57 different stamps. Enough for an exciting start.

3. MIDGET ENCYCLOPEDIA OF STAMPS. Plus Stamp Dictionary and Stamp Identifier. Tells you everything you'll want to know to enjoy the hobby and become an expert. Shows you how to recognise thousands of foreign stamps.

4. AUSTRALIA—1956 OLYMPIC SEALS. A wonderful complete set of 4 gold-bordered action shots to publicise the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

ALL 4 ITEMS—REGULAR VALUE 5/6—YOURS FOR JUST 1/- TO INTRODUCE OUR BARGAIN APPROVALS. THIS IS A GENUINE OPPORTUNITY TO START A LIFETIME OF COLLECTING PLEASURE—OR ADD NEW LIFE TO YOUR COLLECTION AT A TINY COST.

SEND 1/- TODAY PLUS 6d. POSTAGE ASK FOR LOT ALI

Satisfaction guaranteed or immediate refund.

SEND NAME AND ADDRESS AND 1/6 ASK FOR LOT ALI OR

MAIL COUPON TODAY!

TO: BROADWAY APPROVALS, 486 OLD KENT ROAD, LONDON, S.E.I.

I enclose 1/6d. Rush me Lot ALI comprising Stamps, Album, Midget Encyclopedia and Free Gift. Include a selection of Bargain Approvals for free examination.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

BROADWAY APPROVALS,

486 OLD KENT Rd LONDON, S.E.I

Members: British Philatelic Association